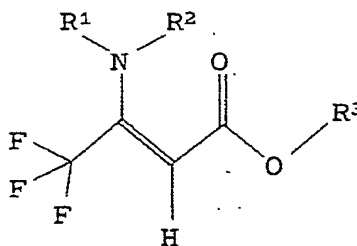


Abstract

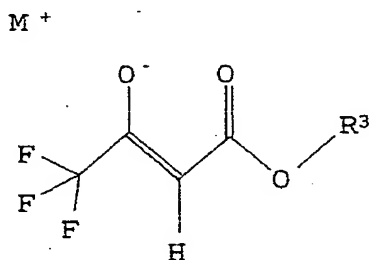
A process is described for preparing 3-amino-4,4,4-trifluorocrotonic esters of the formula (I) or the E/Z isomers or tautomeric forms thereof



(I)

where  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently hydrogen, an optionally substituted linear  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl radical or an optionally substituted benzyl radical and  $R^3$  is methyl or ethyl, which comprises

- a) reacting an alkyl trifluoroacetate with an alkyl acetate of the formula  $CH_3-CO-OR^3$  and an alkali metal alkoxide to give an enolate of a trifluoroacetoacetic ester of the formula (II)



(II)

where M is sodium or potassium and  $R^3$  is as defined above, and subsequently

- b) allowing the alkali metal enolate of the trifluoroacetoacetic ester from stage a) to react without further purification directly with an amine of the formula  $NHR^1R^2$  in the presence of an acid to give the 3-amino-4,4,4-trifluorocrotonic ester.

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With the aid of this two-stage process, the 3-amino-4,4,4-trifluorocrotonic esters can be prepared in high yields without significant by-products.